



• Bank of America Building.



• Chamber of Commerce Building.

first major calamity struck the city—closing down of its only industry. Naturally business felt the reaction and, although a meeting was held January 14, 1915, the chamber passed through its first period of trance.

Stood for Progress
DURING its life that first body sponsored several important developments. In addition to the fire department, considerable interest was taken in the police situation, and the chamber was instrumental in obtaining the community's first night watchman.

Other important developments backed by the chamber included better trolley service, establishment of a newspaper, foundation of a telephone exchange, obtaining of a supply of houses for rent, and highway development, particularly that of Western avenue.

Noteworthy among achievements of this baby chamber was entertainment of the merchants and manufacturers of Los Angeles, who visited the new community in 1914.

Reorganized in 1916
REORGANIZATION of the chamber after the dull days of

1914-15 was effected February 10, 1916, when Sam Rappaport was instrumental in gathering businessmen for a new lease on life. R. R. Smith, H. H. Dolley, H. Burmaster and Rappaport were elected, respectively, to the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Included among achievements of the reorganized body were further progress on highways, establishment of playgrounds, improvement of the telephone service, erection of a school building, better transportation service, investigation of flood control, including Nigger slough drainage by means of a canal; and, of course, continuous co-operation with the fire company.

When the war came to America it left its mark on the chamber, the last meeting of which was held June 25, 1917. But six months later saw the second reorganization, with George A. Proctor as president and A. H. Bartlett secretary.

The stage of development of the community is noted in the fact that principal business of the first meeting was a movement toward acquisition of a

power-driven fire engine and 1500 feet of hose, to replace the old hand-drawn hose carts.

Anti-Annexation
UNDER this body steps were taken toward resisting the spreading octopus of Los Angeles, when the Torrance chamber united with others in the so-called Anti-Annexation League, which carried its battle through the courts until victory was recorded in September, 1921.

Sponsorship of a series of lyceum programs, formation of the Torrance Home Guards under Professor Ellison as captain; expansion of the fire department; and responsibility for the various war fund drives were accepted by this phase of the chamber, whose last meeting was held, apparently, February 3, 1919.

A third reorganization took place in 1920, when the first meeting was held January 19, with E. X. Andem, president and A. H. Bartlett, secretary. Completion of the electric railway system between Redondo Beach and Torrance was urged by this body, while other important steps included pro-

posed erection of a monument to the war heroes; formation of a company to build the Torrance auditorium; merger of the newspapers; formation of an American Legion Post; sponsorship of a fiesta; a movement to change building restrictions to permit business structures of less than three stories; better postal service; and, most important of all, the campaign for incorporation of Torrance as a city, resulting in a vote in favor of 365 to 11.

Present Body Formed
THE LAST meeting of this chamber was held October 3, 1921, but it was dormant only four months when the fourth and final reorganization took place. Under the new group Alfred Gourcier was elected president; C. L. Bisbee and Carl L. Hyde, vice presidents; J. Wallace Post, treasurer, and H. D. Pottenger, secretary.

In May, 1922, the chamber completed the "Film of Torrance" and arranged for its showing in the Ferry building, San Francisco; Chamber of Commerce building, Los Angeles, and in Torrance. Throughout 1922 the chamber actively co-operated with other commu-

nities to effect the improvement of Western avenue. Another major activity was urging additional schools.

During the following year Torrance exhibited at the Harbor Industrial exposition in Long Beach. The chamber conducted campaigns for the improvement of several thoroughfares leading into and in Torrance, also continued efforts to have additional schools established in Torrance.

Work of 1924
THE CHAMBER succeeded in having Torrance postoffice carrier service extended, in 1924, installed highway directional signs; secured Western Union telegraph service and established the Mothers' Educational center.

Assessment roll service for Torrance property was created in 1925, while the chamber effected also the industrial survey of Torrance by Eberle & Riegelman and co-operated with the Santa Fe in establishing the International Derrick and Equipment Company in Torrance. It continued activities for improvement of streets, conducted a campaign for schools, initiated a campaign

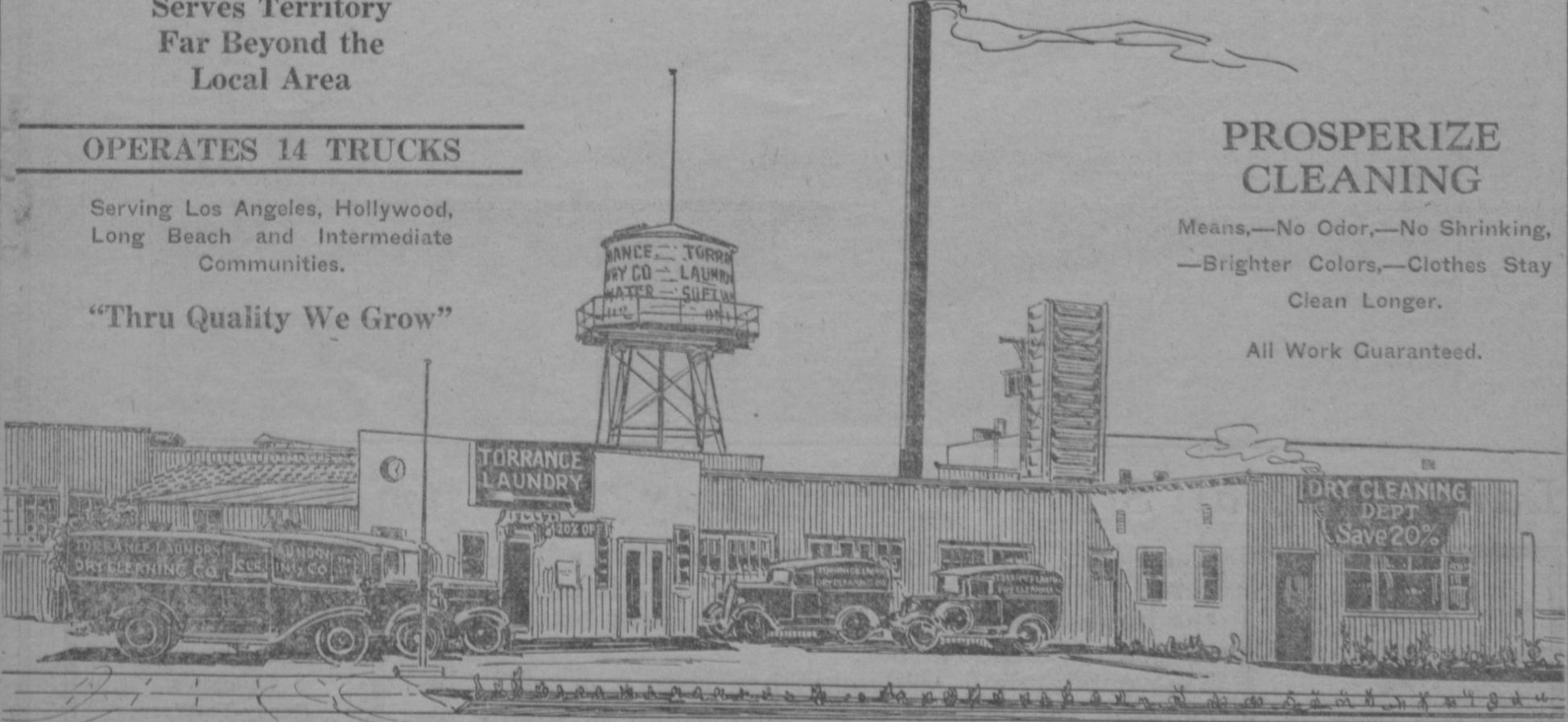
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